



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **THIRD CO-DEFENDANT CONVICTED IN CONSPIRACY TO DISTRIBUTE 500 GRAMS OR MORE OF COCAINE**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a third co-defendant pleaded guilty in federal court today to his role in a conspiracy to distribute cocaine in the Kansas City area.

**Frederico Grimaldo**, 29, of Kansas City, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Gary A. Fenner this morning to his role in a conspiracy to distribute 500 grams or more of cocaine from June 10, 2003, until Oct. 17, 2003.

By pleading guilty, **Grimaldo** specifically admitted that he distributed cocaine on June 10 and 18, July 3, and Aug. 5, 2003. **Grimaldo** further admitted that on Oct. 17, 2003, he fronted to a co-conspirator one kilogram of cocaine for the purpose of distribution.

In total, **Grimaldo** admitted that he was responsible for the distribution of 1,184 grams of cocaine.

Under federal law, **Grimaldo** is subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of 40 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$2 million. His sentence will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

**Grimaldo** is the third co-defendant to be convicted in this conspiracy. Co-defendants **Anthony R. Hayes**, 26, and **Jesus Oropeza**, 25, both of the Kansas City area, also pleaded guilty to their roles in the conspiracy to distribute 500 grams or more of cocaine on March 10, and March 11, 2004, respectively.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Catherine A. Connelly. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Metro Meth Task Force.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)